

## Message Text

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FOLLOWING IS REPEAT HALIFAX 0127, SENT SECSTATE, INFO OTTAWA,  
MAR. 30, 1976:

QUOTE UNCLAS HALIFAX 0127

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PLOS, CA

SUBJECT: EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTER MACEACHEN SPEAKS ON LAW  
OF THE SEA

REF: HALIFAX TEL 0049

1. IN ADDRESSES MADE IN YARMOUTH AND CHURCH POINT, NOVA  
SCOTIA ON MARCH 29, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTER ALLAN  
MACEACHEN DISCUSSED LAW OF THE SEA MATTERS. HE SAID THAT DELEGATES  
TO THE CURRENT LAW OF THE SEA CONFERENCE IN NEW YORK NOW  
REALIZE THE DANGER OF THE PARTICIPATING NATIONS GOING THEIR  
OWN WAY UNLESS THE MANY ISSUES CONFRONTING THEM ARE SOLVED  
THIS YEAR. HE SAID THAT THE MAIN GOALS OF THE CONFERENCE MUST  
BE ACHIEVED BY THE END OF THE YEAR. THE MINISTER SAID THAT  
MEMBERS OF THE CANADIAN DELEGATION WHICH HE HEADS HAD WORKED  
HARD TO BRING ABOUT A CONSENSUS THAT WAS HIGHLY FAVORABLE TO  
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CANADIAN FISHING INTERESTS.

2. MR. MACEACHEN SAID THAT A BASIC ELEMENT OF THE DEVELOPING CONSENSUS AT THE CONFERENCE IS THE EXTENSION OF THE 200-MILE COASTAL STATE JURISDICTION OVER FISHERIES, RECOGNIZING THE COASTAL STATES JURISDICTION OVER THE LIVING RESOURCES IN THE 200-MILE ZONE. HE SAID, WE KNOW WE CANNOT WAIT INDEFINITELY TO IMPLEMENT THE 200-MILE ZONE...WE MUST AND SOON WILL HAVE A FISHERIES ZONE OF 200MILES.

3. THE MINISTER SAID THAT THE NORTHWEST ATLANTIC FISHERY FACED A CRISIS SITUATION AND THAT ALTHOUGH CANADIAN MANAGEMENT OF THE FISHERY WOULD NOT SOLVE ALL THE PROBLEMS, IT WILL HELP GREATLY TO ASSIST THE RESTORATION OF THE FISHING INDUSTRY.

4. MR. MACEACHEN SAID NEGOTIATIONS UNDERWAY BETWEEN CANADA AND OTHER MAJOR NATIONS FISHING THE NORTHWEST ATLANTIC WERE BEING CARRIED OUT IN ORDER THAT EACH OF THESE COUNTRIES WOULD BE AWARE OF ITS POSITION ONCE THE LIMIT WAS EXTENDED TO 200 MILES. IN NEGOTIATING THESE AGREEMENTS WE ARE PAVING THE WAY FOR OUR EXTENSION IN AN ORDERLY FASHION - THUS AVOIDING FUTURE CONFRONTATIONS. HE SAID THE SOUNDNESS OF THIS POLICY WAS ILLUSTRATED BY EXAMINING THE ICELAND-UNITED KINGDOM DISPUTE OVER TERRITORIAL RIGHTS IN THE COD WAR.

5. BILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS HAVE SO FAR BEEN CONCLUDED WITH NORWAY, SPAIN, POLAND, PORTUGAL COVERING 30 PERCENT OF THE TOTAL FOREIGN CATCH IN THE AREA UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF THE ICNAF. NEGOTIATIONS ARE UNDERWAY WITH THE SOVIET UNION AND SIMILAR NEGOTIATIONS WOULD BEGIN WITH THE UNITED STATES EARLY IN 1977.

6. MR. MACEACHEN SAID HE EXPECTED THE AMERICANS TO BE TOUGH NEGOTIATORS. CANADA FOLLOWS POLICIES IN ITS BEST INTERESTS AND THE UNITED STATES CAN BE EXPECTED TO DO THE SAME.

7. THE MINISTER POINTED OUT THAT EXTENSION OF CANADIAN FISHERIES JURISDICTION WOULD NOT REQUIRE ANY NEW LEGISLATION AND COULD BE PUT INTO EFFECT WITHIN 60 DAYS UNDER THE UNCLASSIFIED

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TERRITORIAL SEA AND FISHING ZONE ACT. UNDER CANADIAN MANAGEMENT, CANADIAN FISHERMEN WOULD MEET THEIR QUOTAS FIRST AND ANY SURPLUS EXISTING AFTER CANADIAN REQUIREMENTS HAD BEEN MET WOULD BE DIVIDED AMONG THE OTHER FISHING NATIONS. MANBEY UNQUOTE. KISSINGER

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